

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00516 181240Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 MCT-01 CAB-02 CIAE-00  
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P 181114Z APR 78  
FM A EEMZASSY DOHA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3571  
INFO USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOGE 516

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, EAIR  
SUBJECT: ANTI-HIJACKING CONTACT GROUP

REF: STATE 090969

1. SUMMARY: QATAR IS WAITING TO HEAR WHAT KEY ARAB STATES SUCH AS EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA HAVE DONE ON TOKYO, HAGUE AND MONTREAL CONVENTIONS BEFORE DECIDING WHAT STAND IT WILL ADOPT. THE BASIC REASON FOR QATAR'S NON-ACCESSION APPEARS TO BE BUREAUCRATIC OR ADMINISTRATIVE RATHER THAN POLITICAL. IF USG CAN PROVIDE QATAR WITH BASES OF THE RESERVATIONS OF EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA IN ACCEDING TO THE HAGUE AND MONTREAL CONVENTIONS, WE MAY BE ABLE TO EXPEDITE ACCESSION BY QATAR. END SUMMARY.

2. I CALLED ON BRITISH AMBASSADOR COLIN BRANT AND WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR JUERGEN HELLNER APRIL 12 TO ASCERTAIN THEIR VIEWS (REFTEL) ON REASON FOR QATAR'S NON-ADHERENCE TO TOKYO, HAGUE AND MONTREAL CONVENTIONS ON UNLAWFUL INTERFERENCE WITH CIVIL AVIATION. IN VIEW FACT THAT EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA, TWO ARAB COUNTRIES OF MOST IMPORTANCE TO QATAR'S INTERESTS, HAVE  
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ALREADY ACCEDED TO CONVENTIONS, BRANT AND HELLNER WERE CONVINCED THAT QATAR'S REASONS FOR NON-ACCESSION WERE ESSENTIALLY ADMINISTRATIVE. I AGREED WITH THEIR VIEW.

3. BRANT'S FILES SHOWED THAT HIS PREDECESSOR ON INSTRUCTIONS HAD ON DECEMBER 12, 1977 CALLED ON DR. HASSAN KAMEL, ADVISOR TO THE GOVERNMENT OF QATAR, TO URG SYATAR'S ACCESSION TO THE THREE

CONVENTIONS. AT THAT TIME, BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAD PROVIDED MR. KAMEL WITH COPIES OF THE CONVENTIONS.

4. DURING APRIL 17 CALL ON DR. KAMEL, WHO IN THIS TYPE OF SITUATION IS DE FACTO FOREIGN MINISTER OF QATAR, I STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF QATAR'S ACCESSION AND PROVIDED HIM WITH A COPY OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONSENSUS RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON NOVEMBER 3, 1977. DR. KAMEL SAID THAT AFTER THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCHE ON THIS SUBJECT LAST DECEMBER, KAMEL HAD ASKED THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO SEND LDHTERS TO THE OTHER ARAB STATES ASKING THEIR VIEWS ON THE TOKYO, HAGUE AND MONTREAL CONVENTIONS. QATAR HAD ACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS INVARIABLE

PRACTICE OF TAKING NO IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING WITH THE OTHER ARAB STATES. ALTHOUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD SENT THE REQUESTED LETTERS, AFTER TWO MONTHS NO RESPONSES HAD BEEN RECEIVED. FOLLOWING THIS, DR. KAMEL HAD HAD FOLLOW UP LETTERS SENT TO WHICH REPLIES ARE STILL AWAITED.

5. DR. KAMEL SAID THAT IF SUCH IMPORTANT ARAB STATES AS EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAQ HAD ACCEDED TO THE CONVENTIONS, QATAR MIGHT WELL BE ABLE TO DO SO ITSELF. BUT IN MAKING A RECOMMENDATION TO AMIR KHALIFA, DR. KAMEL SAID HE WOULD NEED TO KNOW THE BASIS OF THE RESERVATIONS PARTICULARLY OF EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA IN ACCEDING TO THE HAGUE AND MONTREAL CONVENTIONS. IN RESPONSE TO

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HIS REQUEST, IT SAID I WOULD TRY TO GET FROM THE DEPARTMENT WHAT THE RESERVATIONS WERE FOR PASSING TO HIM.

6. REQUEST FOR ACTION: PLEASE PROVIDE ME BY CABLE WITH THE ABOVE-MENTIONED RESERVATIONS OF EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA. I BELIEVE IF DR. KAMEL HAS THESE IN HAND HE WILL MAKE A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE AMIR. IF WE WAIT FOR A SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT TO SEND THEIR OWN REPLIES, WE COULD FACE AN INDEFINITE DELAY.  
KILLGORE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TREATY RATIFICATION, ANTIHIJACKING PROCEDURES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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